



Kentucky Tech “Close the Deal” regional promotional meetings conclude with partners working together to ease college transition for career and technical education students

Student success stories highlight meetings

The road from high school to postsecondary education just got easier for Kentucky Tech students through a statewide program initiative entitled “Close the Deal” (CTD). Kentucky Tech area supervisors Mary Stratton, Linda Floyd and Barney Judd joined together to create real opportunities for Kentucky Tech students and their parents to learn how the college process works through three mini-grants funded by the Kentucky College Access Network (KentuckyCAN). The initiative was expanded to include *all* secondary career and technical education students in locally operated career and technical centers.

Fashioned after Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and his Campaign for College Committee's "Close the Deal" program, the Kentucky Tech initiative aims to ease college transition and offers students and parents a roadmap to postsecondary education.

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) have worked together to host seven CTD kick-off events across the commonwealth that began in August and concluded September 30. The regional rallies were held to announce and promote the program, and to initiate the dissemination of information on a statewide basis. A major goal was to promote services that will be offered at over 54 local meetings statewide for students and their parents to learn about the opportunities and advantages of earning postsecondary credit while in high school and transitioning into college. Invitees included state legislators, regional and local officials, as well as all of the education partners. CTD segments include regional promotional meetings, planning meetings, and local student/parent meetings.

CTD goals are to increase knowledge of education financial options including assistance in filling out the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA); increase awareness about dual credit and articulation pathways in KCTCS as well as other postsecondary



education institutions; and increase the number of career and technical education students enrolling in postsecondary institutions after graduation.

Participants who attend a local meeting at a Kentucky Tech area technology center or locally operated career and technical center will learn about applying to college, college costs and using financial aid and KEES money. They will also learn about the opportunities available to students interested in transferring high school credit to college.

Bringing agencies together to explore possibilities has helped connect more dots. People have begun to understand how shared responsibility can make a difference in helping students make the transition to postsecondary –when specifically targeted at the local level. Regional promotional meetings were held in Kentucky Tech area technology centers, local high schools and KCTCS colleges.

As a major provider of dual credit, KCTCS colleges were invited to be significant partners in CTD. A coordinated effort to involve KCTCS campuses was orchestrated between Stratton and Nicole McDonald, KCTCS system director for transfer and retention.

The good news - statistical information is beginning to illustrate that articulation and dual credit agreements between OCTE-Kentucky Tech and KCTCS provide a viable postsecondary pathway for career and technical students. CTD follow-up with career coaches at Kentucky Tech ATCs will track student transfer and retention over the next two years. (13 Kentucky Tech career coaches have been funded through an AmeriCorps grant.)

The following pages capture each Close the Deal regional promotional meeting.



Paducah Regional Promotional Meeting

West Kentucky Community & Technical College

August 25, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.



Lisa Stephenson

*Director of K-12 Partnerships and Recruiting
West Kentucky Community and Technical College*

Stephenson:

"Research has shown that if a student has a connection to someone at the college who makes them feel welcomed and valued, they are more successful and more likely to transition to that postsecondary institution.

"The Kentucky Tech Close the Deal program will enable us to have open discussions with students and parents concerning their college and career plans. Many students are overwhelmed. Through Close the Deal events, students and parents will become familiar with WKCTC student affairs professionals, our college requirements, and what they may need to work on prior to enrolling.

"Given the amount of tuition we waive for the majority of our dual credit offerings, I personally want to see students transition to WKCTC and use the college hours they have earned to successfully complete a credential. If we do our job right, WKCTC will be the student's first college choice.

"Transitioning to WKCTC will impact our overall enrollment as well as increase the number of career ready individuals. Besides increasing the transition rate to WKCTC, dual credit offerings help prepare students for success in the workforce and with other college coursework at 4-year postsecondary institutions."

At right, KY Tech-Paducah ATC principal Don Wann poses with local SkillsUSA officers who served as official welcoming committee for Paducah Close the Deal event at WKCTC.



Paducah Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Success – Andrea Smith Green



Green is a former health science student under KY Tech-Mayfield Graves instructor Sheryle Guess and graduated from Graves Co. HS. in May 2009.

As a senior, Green earned 8 dual credit hours in her KY Tech program that transferred directly to WKCTC. When she enrolled in college, she had just turned 19 and was the youngest in her class. At the ATC, she completed the following qualifications: CPR Card, Nurses Aid Course, and TB Skin Test. It wasn't as difficult as she thought it would be because Mrs. Guess had already helped her achieve the majority of the qualifications she needed.

Green:

"In high school, I had to insist on going into the health science class at the tech center. Mrs. Guess was a great teacher. She was tough and I learned a lot in her class. I knew I wanted to be a nurse and being in her program saved me time and money in college. I made the right decision.

"When anyone asks who has had the most impact on my educational career and life, without a second thought, my answer is Mrs. Guess. I am where I am today because of her. She helped make my dreams become a reality. Because of her, I will succeed."

Photo at right: Mayfield-Graves Co. delegation at the Close the Deal regional promotional meeting.



Above: Dr. Steve Freeman, WKCTC and Commissioner Beth A. Brinly, KY Department of Workforce Investment.

Brinly:

"The Close the Deal initiative is a wonderful opportunity to demystify college access for parents and students. It also provides a fast track for students to complete a certificate or degree and move into the job market."



Paducah Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Success – Joey Wilcox

According to Joey Wilcox, KY Tech – Paducah ATC carpentry instructor Lynn Rogers made a huge difference in his life and is the reason he graduated from high school in 2010. Rogers also knew Joey needed help to turn his life around.

“He gave me a way and he pulled me up,” said Wilcox.

Wilcox’s teachers and counselors agree he was a brilliant math student in school. But, with a multitude of personal family problems, he was a high risk student.

“I told Joey, I don’t care where you come from or what you’ve done,” said Rogers. “Everybody starts fresh in here. It’s what you do here that counts with me. As long as you do and act as you should in here, I’ll bend over backwards for you. This is your opportunity to begin all over again. Joey said, ‘All over again?’ and I said, that’s right.”

Because of Wilcox’s exemplary performance, Rogers worked through an outreach program to provide him with additional help. Joey met Jimmy Walker, an engineering group manager with United States Enrichment Corporation, Inc. Walker became personally interested in Wilcox and is a mentor to him.

“Joey had skills; he didn’t have all his ducks in a row, and needed life and family skills,” said Walker. “He is in a situation where he is married and expecting a child.”

Walker saw that Joey had a desire to succeed and just needed that extra step, so he talked with other USEC employees and came up with a plan to help Joey get his career on track. Even though Wilcox is currently enrolled at WKCTC, Walker is encouraging Joey to enroll in an engineering program. Once he completes that program, he can go on to a four-year university and earn an engineering degree.

“If Joey is successful at this endeavor, it will open many doors for him at USEC or other companies,” said Walker. “The education community needs to convince businesses that kids are their future. This is reality because businesses must grow their employees. We all need to step up because it takes a village to raise a child.”



Wilcox and Rogers

Kenton County Regional Promotional Meeting

*Turkey Foot Middle School
August 31, 2010 - 12:00 Noon*



Kenton County group photo (l to r): Tim Hanner, Kenton County Schools superintendent; Tom Cantwell, former KY Tech-J.D. Patton ATC student; Representative Alecia Webb-Edgington; Dr. G. Edward Hughes, president/CEO , Boone Campus, Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM); Brad Bender, former KY Tech-Russell ATC student; Jared Lyon, former KY Tech-J. D. Patton student; Mayor Jerry Abramson; Mary Stratton, KY Tech area supervisor; and Michael Kindred, OCTE deputy executive director.

Kenton County Regional Promotional Meeting



As special guest speaker during the Kenton County meeting, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson relayed valuable information regarding the inspiring story about how he got started in “Close the Deal.” His story opened the door to how the program or a variation of the model could be expanded to help students enter into postsecondary institutions across the commonwealth.

A couple of years ago, Abramson bumped into a high school principal who was dismayed because his staff was struggling to get more students interested in applying to college. When the principal asked for help, Abramson agreed and “Close the Deal” for Valley Traditional High School became a reality. The whole goal was to connect with students and their families at key points during their senior year to “Close the Deal” on college.

“I know it takes community-wide support to make the most of opportunities for our students. It’s not just the job of our hard-working schools,” said Abramson. “I also recognize that it pays off for the entire community as students aspire to higher educational goals.”

In Louisville, Close the Deal has a successful track record and continues to expand. The partnership continues to bring together educators, elected officials, and civic and business leaders for the benefit of students.

Abramson:

“Our challenge is to join schools in giving young people the vision, encouragement, and support. The bottom line is this. Any school or school district can borrow aspects of our Close the Deal experiment.

“The dual-credit program for vocational and technical students is a great way to give those young people job skills, and a head start on higher education. It can be a jump start to all kinds of postsecondary degrees.”

Kenton County Regional Promotional Meeting

Hanner:

"For the Kenton County School District, student achievement is enhanced when we partner with those who have a similar mission, vision, and approach. We strive to prepare our students for the global work market through data-driven researched-based teaching methods, a strong commitment to innovation, and quality instruction in every classroom, every day."

"This is why our partnership with Kentucky Tech and the J.D. Patton Area Technology Center is thriving. We are passionate about the students, and technical education and skills training opportunities at Patton. In fact, we are the only school district in the state that funds math and English teachers, and a guidance counselor for our ATC."

"We are proud of Patton's 98 percent postsecondary dual credit rate and pleased to celebrate 'Close the Deal' and its attention to dual credit opportunities with postsecondary partners."

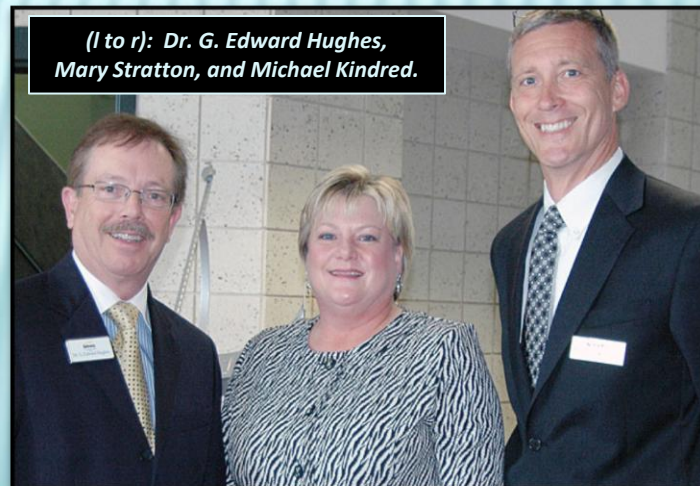
"As leaders who desire more for students in our community, we look forward to helping Kenton county students take advantage of 'Close the Deal' opportunities."



Tim Hanner
Kenton County Schools
superintendent



Ray Stanley, KY Tech-J.D. Patton; Stratton, Kenton Co. board member; Hanner, and Kindred.



**(l to r): Dr. G. Edward Hughes,
Mary Stratton, and Michael Kindred.**



(r to l): Kindred, Sara Johnson, KY Tech-Greenup Co.; Keith Parsons, KY Tech-Russell ATC; Ray Stanley, KY Tech-J.D. Patton; Joseph Amann, KY Tech-C.E. McCormick ATC and Gary Harper, KY Tech-Boone Co. ATC.

Kenton County Regional Promotional Meeting – Student Successes



Brad Bender
Former KY Tech-
Russell ATC
electrical
technology
student

Bender graduated in 2008 and was armed with 23 credit hours that transferred to the Ashland Community and Technical College. He is currently completing an associate degree in Applied Science. His career choice is to be an electrical lineman and has a job when he graduates in December 2010.

At the ATC, Bender enrolled in the drafting and IT programs, but found his niche in the electrical technology program under former instructor Doug Keaton. According to Bender, “Mr. Keaton made a big impact on me and his class was hands-on. It’s because of taking his class that I learned about being a lineman. It’s what I want to do. One day during class Mr. Keaton even called ACTC to find out what I needed to do to enroll. He also spent time calling a couple of companies so that I could hear what they expected.”



Jared Lyon
Former J.D. Patton ATC
welding student

Lyon graduated from high school in 2010 and is currently working on an associate degree in welding at Gateway Community and Technical College. He is convinced that his welding program at the ATC was the reason he went to school every day.

“It fit my needs for learning,” said Lyon. “The math and English teachers helped a lot. They made me feel comfortable.”

Pat Goetz
J.D. Patton Counselor :

“Jared is a good example of a higher level student who excelled at traditional high school, but found his real passion and got a head start on his career pathway through the welding program at Patton. Jared took full advantage of dual credits with Gateway and began his freshman year having earned 10 college credits in welding.”

Kenton County Regional Promotional Meeting – Student Successes

Tom Cantwell

Former KY Tech-J.D. Patton ATC student (electrical technology and renewable energy)

From an undecided high school student to one with a bright future ahead of him, former KY Tech-J.D. Patton renewable energy and electrical technology student Tom Cantwell says, “Patton gave me the tools.” With plans to become an electrical engineer, he enrolled in Tom Pitts’ electrical technology program last year at Gateway Community and Technical College with 11 credits because of the dual credit agreement between Kentucky Tech and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Cantwell also earned 9 dual credit hours from his KY Tech renewable energy classes that he will use toward earning an associate’s degree in renewable energy from Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. Cantwell ultimately plans to enroll at the University of Cincinnati to earn his bachelor of science degree and will be able to use dual credit he has earned.

“As a freshman in college, I was two years ahead of my peers because of the training I received at J. D. Patton,” said Cantwell.

His technical education and skills training provided an added benefit – during the summer of 2010, Cantwell was chosen as an intern for Disney World’s Engineering Internship Program. To Cantwell, the experience was a great opportunity to see another side of Disney – one with all the latest technology.

“I wish more kids could see the programs offered at J.D. Patton,” said Cantwell. “All of this was possible because of what’s in place. It has given me so many opportunities.”



Hazard Regional Promotional Meeting

Hazard Community & Technical College

September 17, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.

Judd:

"There is a large percentage of career and technical education students whose parents have never been to college, so this opportunity provides those students and parents with a chance to learn about and understand the processes involved in getting to college. We believe this helps parents help their children. Through this process, we are trying to break barriers and help them overcome fears.

"We appreciate the efforts of our KCTCS and other postsecondary partners for their willingness to go the extra mile for our career and technical students. Benefits will continue to be realized for years to come."



Mike Kindred, OCTE Deputy Exec. Dir.; Barney Judd, KY Tech Area Supervisor; Karen Napier, KentuckyCAN Interim Director; Dr. Kris Williams, HCTC Interim President; and Doug Fraley, HCTC Vice-President for Student Services.

Fraley:

"We are excited about Close the Deal because of the additional impact it will have on students. Sometimes the extra help we provide at the local level makes all the difference in steering young men and women in the right the direction to embark upon a postsecondary education.

"Over the past five years, the Hazard Community and Technical College has experienced an increase in the number of students who have enrolled in a technical program at our institution. At the same time, we have found that Kentucky Tech students are well prepared in the technical education and skills training they received from their area technology center programs.

"We are pleased to report that KCTCS and Hazard Community and Technical College have provided scholarships in our area in excess of \$1M over the past five years in support of ATC dual credit. This contribution promotes college access and success, and more importantly - college affordability.

"On behalf of Hazard Community and Technical College, we are proud to be partners with the Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Tech school district."

Hazard Regional Promotional Meeting

Hazard Community & Technical College

September 17, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.



Karen E. Napier
Interim Executive Director
KentuckyCAN, Inc.:

“KentuckyCAN is honored to be a part of the Kentucky Tech Close the Deal’ project through our KnowHow2Go mini-grants. This is a great step in building a ‘college-going culture’ deeply rooted in community involvement and awareness. Looking ahead, higher education and training will no longer be an option on a career pathway and hands-on training will be even more important in highly technical jobs. Kentucky Tech Area Technology Centers are excellent examples of how programs can increase student persistence and engage them in developing career-related interests and information, and that more fully demonstrates the ways education can make a difference in their lives. Intrinsic motivation is enhanced when students place personal value in their education. Providing students with experiences that make education personally meaningful, such as by relating education to career information serve as one way to support the value of education to students.”

“Results from outreach programs like Close the Deal are extremely promising. Expanding access to higher education is central to the success of our students and their chosen career path. In addition to students, these programs also targets parents and adult influencers to encourage students to prepare for college early. Many low-income and first-generation students have high aspirations for college, but do not have clear information on what steps they need to take. Also, in these same households, many adults may provide moral support but with no college experience themselves, their children must take the lead in pursuing college. We at KentuckyCAN are so pleased that programs like Close the Deal are preparing Kentucky students academically, financially, and/or socially to succeed in education beyond high school.”



Hazard Regional Promotional Meeting

Dual Credit Agreements signed during Close the Deal meeting provide special touch to commemorate event



Breathitt County Dual Credit Agreement (l to r): KY Tech-Breathitt County ATC principal Margaret Gross and Dr. Kris Williams, HCTC Interim President/CEO.



Knott County Dual Credit Agreement (l to r): KY Tech-Knott County ATC principal Patrick Goodin and Dr. Kris Williams, HCTC Interim President/CEO.



Leslie County Dual Credit Agreement (l to r): KY Tech-Leslie County ATC principal Dwight Lewis and Dr. Kris Williams, HCTC Interim President/CEO.



Lee County Dual Credit Agreement (back row, l to r): David Land, Lee Co. High School principal; Ray Shuler, Lee Co. CTE coordinator; Willie Addison, Gear Up; and Jim Evans, Lee Co. Schools Superintendent. Front row, (l to r): Craig Herald, KY Tech-Lee Co. principal and Dr. Williams.

During her welcome, Dr. Williams expressed enthusiasm for Close the Deal and underscored the commitment of Hazard Community and Technical College faculty and staff in working with Kentucky Tech partners for the benefit of students. The Dual Credit Agreement signing session with Kentucky Tech principals sealed the deal in this partnership endeavor.



Hazard Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Success: Shane Rose

*Billie Jean Damron Cole
Associate Dean of Student Affairs
Big Sandy Community & Technical College:*

“This is a story about how education partners can change the lives of students. When my nephew Shane was in middle school, he was in love with the game of basketball and was a good student in school. One day Shane’s basketball coach told him he wasn’t good enough to play on the team. Shane changed after this incident and his attitude toward school became one of disinterest.

“During high school, Shane didn’t find the ‘traditional’ course work exciting or important; however, he thoroughly enjoyed all his drafting classes at the Letcher County ATC under Mr. Ivan Whitaker.

“While attending an open house at the high school, Shane and his mother ran into his former basketball coach who said, ‘do not spend any college tuition on this young man.’ I was furious and set out to do something.

“While attending a college day at Knott Central High School, I visited with my Hazard CTC colleagues and met Tony Back, a CAD professor. I informed Tony about Shane’s love of drafting and asked if he would contact him about enrolling at Hazard CTC. I’m proud to say Tony went that very next week to visit Shane.

“That fall, Shane enrolled at HCTC and Tony became Shane’s advisor. Shane had earned 9 hours of dual credit through Letcher County ATC’s partnership with SKCTC.

“Many people played an important role in helping shape the life of my nephew. Shane made Dean’s list 3 out of 4 semesters and placed second in the SkillsUSA KY State CAD drafting competition. He received his diploma and earned an AAS degree in CAD. He is employed by Synergy Engineering as a surveyor/CAD technician and at 22 years of age, leads his own crew in the field. All this was possible because of the partnerships among KY Tech-Letcher Co. ATC, SKCTC, and HCTC. Because people cared, Shane has a very bright future and I couldn’t be more proud.”



Billie Jean and Shane



Hazard Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Successes: Jesse Tackett and Nick Napier

Jesse Tackett has been an effective automotive technology instructor at the Breathitt Co. ATC for almost 25 years and has thoroughly enjoyed working with students. But, his career didn't start out in that direction.

His first experience with postsecondary education was visiting Lees College, but he says, "I didn't know what to do and I really didn't want to go."

During a trip to Hazard, he went up to what was originally called the Hazard State Vocational Technical School (now HCTC) to visit the automotive shop. Class had already started. He asked Mr. Ed. White, the instructor, about the class.

"Mr. White was the most interesting man I had ever met. I asked him if I could get in his class and he said yes. I enrolled, learned a lot, graduated, and went to work in the field for 8 years."

Tackett was so good at what he did and had such a great reputation, Breathitt Co. board members asked him to teach. Twice he turned down the job and the third time he said yes.

"I started in August 1986. They gave me the keys and said there is your room," said Tackett. "Technical education has had a big effect on my life and the lives of my students."



Nick Napier

Napier was a student in Jesse Tackett's automotive technology program and graduated in 2000. According to Napier, "KY Tech and Mr. Tackett made a difference in my life. I started taking his class during my sophomore year and took classes through my senior year. He led me in the right direction. To this day, if I have a question, I call Mr. Tackett."

Napier is a manager in the automotive business and attributes much of his success to Tackett.



Warren County Regional Meeting

Warren County Area Technology Center

September 23, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.



Dale Brown

WKU Interim Associate Vice President

Academic Affairs/Enrollment Management

“Close the Deal represents a program where all the institutions can be players and partners. The overall goal is to provide an inviting and welcoming environment for Kentucky Tech and locally operated career and technical students to enter college and have the ability to complete.

“Institution dual credit and articulation agreements are helpful to students so they can springboard to the next level. However, it’s important to do the right prep work and the value to KCTCS and Western Kentucky University is that the student must be prepared.”

“We appreciate the efforts of Kentucky Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton and her willingness to promote ‘Close the Deal’ across the commonwealth for the benefit of all career and technical students.”

Scott S. Gordon

Director of Admissions

Western Kentucky University:



“WKU is very supportive of the Close The Deal initiative. Any student who can participate in this program and receive college credit while in high school will have a tremendous advantage, whether they begin at a KCTCS school and transfer, or begin at one of the four-year universities. This will speed their time to degree completion and facilitate an increased college graduation rate in Kentucky.”

Photo (l to r): Brown, Sharon Hunter, WKU Academic Affairs director; Gordon, and LaBrish Williams, WKU Admissions asst. director.





Warren County Regional Meeting



Denna White
Director of Admissions
Bowling Green Technical College:

"Close the Deal is an excellent opportunity for parents and students to see the advantage of the KCTCS Dual Credit programs. Our partnerships with KY Tech area technology centers and secondary schools allow students to explore options in technical training that applies toward their college education. Technical Colleges provide real training for real people."



Above (l to r): Mary Stratton, KY Tech area supervisor; Mike Kindred, OCTE deputy executive director; Representative C. B. Embry; and Linda Floyd, KY Tech area supervisor.



(l to r): Dr. Gerald Napoles, BGTC chief student service officer; White; Dr. Phil Neal, BGTC Provost; and Stratton.



Student Success - Justin Boose



Former Warren Co. ATC automotive technology student

Justin Boose, 20, is currently enrolled at BGTC and working on an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology and Associate Degree in Business. He plans to graduate in May 2011. In addition to school, he works at the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department.

Boose:

"My Kentucky Tech instructor Randall Collins taught me a lot. The whole automotive technology program was valuable because any questions that I had or may have, I could have learned here. I learn best with my hands, so high school was boring to me. I didn't relate to what they were teaching. I can sit down to read a book, but the hands-on learning kept me engaged and interested.

"I didn't enroll in the automotive technology program until my senior year, but because I came to the Warren County Area Technology Center, I was encouraged to go to college by my instructor and Mr. Evans, our principal. I took their advice and went to college. My plan is to get my degree in automotive technology, but I also wanted to back it up with a business degree in case I needed it too."

Mr. Don Evans

KY Tech Warren Co. ATC Principal:

"Justin was an excellent student from Warren County High School and always knew what he wanted to do. He was focused and a pleasure to have in our school. He earned 6 dual credit hours in his KY Tech automotive technology program that he was able to transfer to Bowling Green Technical College."



Warren County Regional Promotional Meeting



Photo (l to r): Eric Keeling, KY Tech-Russellville principal; Lee Ann Wall, KY Tech-Monroe Co. principal; Ray Hammer, KY Tech-Butler Co. principal; Linda Floyd, KY Tech area supervisor; Don Evans, KY Tech-Warren Co. principal; and Hal Toms, KY Tech-Barren Co. principal.

Floyd:

"Close the Deal will not only help students make the transition to postsecondary, it will also help promote our Kentucky Tech programs. In our minds, the advantage of Close the Deal is to help parents overcome a stigma. When they begin to understand how the process works, they will learn that a college education is in reach and that their child can go to college just like everyone else. The ultimate winner is the student and that's why we are in business.

"Signs of successful postsecondary transition by area technology centers students is becoming more apparent because partners understand what it takes to create a smooth pathway from high school to college. We want to thank all of our partners for their hard work and the impact it is having on students in KY Tech's system of 54 schools.

"All of the KY Tech principals in my service area have worked diligently with David Gilliam, Somerset Community College program facilitator - enrollment management, to increase dual credit opportunities for their students. According to Gilliam, the following represents dual credit numbers at ATCs so far this year: Casey Co. ATC – 190 students, Clay Co. ATC - 69 students, Green Co. ATC – 86 students, Jackson Co. ATC-67 students, Lake Cumberland ATC – 184 students, Lincoln Co. ATC – 82 students, Monroe Co. ATC – 160 students that included 58 from SCC and 102 from BGTC, Rockcastle Co. ATC – 150 students, and Wayne Co. ATC – 194 students. We all appreciate the efforts to Mr. Gilliam."

Madisonville Regional Promotional Meeting

Madisonville Community College

September 24 - 1:30 P.M.

Judith L. Rhoads

Madisonville Community College President

"Madisonville Community College was very pleased to host one of the seven Close the Deal regional promotional meetings where state agencies, surrounding colleges, secondary administrators, and elected officials celebrated the importance of dual credit as an important tool to encourage students to go on to college after high school. But the high point of the session was the personal stories of the students who have done that and what dual credit has meant to them in attainment of their educational and career goals."



Photo (l to r): Dr. Patrick Lake, Henderson Community College President and Dr. Judith L. Rhoads.

Photo at right (l to r): Senator Jerry P. Rhoads, Representative Tommy Thompson, Representative Brent Yonts, and Mary Gwen Wheeler, Senior Advisor on Education and Youth for Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and member of the Kentucky State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education.



Madisonville Regional Promotional Meeting



At left, Hopkins County Delegation, (l to r): Pam Todd, Hopkins County Career and Technology Center Principal; Representative Brent Yontz, Senator Jerry Rhoades, Donnie Carroll, Hopkins County Judge Executive; James Stevens, Hopkins County Schools Superintendent; and Kitty Davis.



Photo below, Muhlenberg County Delegation, (l to r): Jan Yonts, 12 grade counselor Muhlenberg Co. High School; Beth Fleming 9th grade counselor Muhlenberg Co. High School; Kay Turner, assistant principal Muhlenberg Co. CTC; Debbie Vick, 9th grade counselor Muhlenberg Co. High School; Cindy Baird, 11th grade counselor Muhlenberg Co. High School; Tonya Bowers, 10th grade counselor Muhlenberg Co. High School

Dale Todd, Superintendent Muhlenberg Co. Schools; Debbie Houghland, Assistant Superintendent Muhlenberg Co. Schools; and Matt Perkins, Principal Muhlenberg County High School.

Madisonville Regional Promotional Meeting



George G. Humphreys
Extended Campus Director
Madisonville Community College, Muhlenberg County Campus:

"Project Close the Deal has caused us to take a closer look at making the transition to college even more seamless. MCC has for several years had great results with sending a college counselor to our tech schools for one-on-one meetings with students which has raised the percentage of students matriculating to college from under 10% to over 30%. As a direct result of the Close the Deal initiative, MCC will offer seniors at the Tech Schools Compass testing who have not attained their college readiness benchmarks on the ACT in order to make those benchmark scores and participate in after school events for juniors and seniors and their parents to discuss their career pathways."

*Photo at left (l to r):
Deborah Anderson, Branch Manager, Career and College Readiness Branch, Division of Program Standards, Office of Next Generation Learners, KDE; KY Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton; John Marks, OCTE Executive Director; Humphreys, and Mary Gwen Wheeler, Senior Advisor on Education and Youth for Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and member of the Kentucky State Board for Elementary and Secondary Education.*

Anderson:

"Accelerated learning opportunities are important in developing students who are career and college ready. This was a wonderful event to remind us of how dual credit positively affects students and their futures."

Student Success – Bethany Decker

Bethany Decker :

A former nursing student under KY Tech-Ohio Co. ATC Instructor Carla Wallace, Bethany is well on her way to becoming a nurse. She is enrolled at the Owensboro Community and Technical College and working on an Associate Degree in Nursing. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue a 4 year degree.

In Wallace's health sciences program, Bethany earned 6 dual credit hours and completed the MNA her senior year.

"Going to the Area Technology Center got me more prepared for college," said Decker. "Mrs. Wallace was hard and tough, but she knew what she was doing. In my eyes, she is a great teacher."

According to Bethany's mother, Tonya Decker, "Mrs. Wallace stresses that they are going into a profession; therefore, they should act and dress professionally."

Bethany works at Beaver Dam Nursing & Rehabilitation when she is not in class. Once she graduates, she will have a job at the Ohio County Hospital because she has been part of a program entitled, "Bring the Best Back Home."

The program provides up to \$5,000 per semester through a loan from the Bank of Ohio County. When Bethany graduates and goes to work at the hospital, they will pay up to \$5,000 of her loan per year for each year that she works.

Mother Tonya says that Bethany doesn't realize how far ahead of everyone else she is since her entire college career is pretty much paid for if she follows the program.



Photo (l to r): Senator Jerry Rhoades, Bethany Decker, Tonya Decker, Brad Sisk, KY Tech-Ohio Co. ATC Principal; and Representative Tommy Thompson.

Student Success – Matthew Gower



Photo (l to r): John Marks, OCTE Executive Director; Matthew Gower, student; James Nance, Webster County Board Member; and Larry Garrity, KY Tech-Webster Co. ATC Principal.

Matthew is a second generation student of the KY Tech-Webster Co. ATC. His father Bruce went there in the 80's and took welding. During high school, Matthew was enrolled in instructor Don Herrin's machine tool technology program.

According to Bruce, "Matthew loved it. I got real excited because he could build something. He loves working with his hand and he was always excited about going to school. It was a good fit for him."

While in high school, Matthew earned 23 dual credit hours that he took advantage of by enrolling at the Madisonville Community College in the machine tool technology program upon graduation in 2010. Because of the dual credit agreement between Kentucky Tech and Madisonville CC, Matthew began his college career as a second semester freshman. It was a savings of both time

and money. He has also earned the Kentucky Manufacturing Skills Standard certification and National Institute for Metal Working Skills certification in Measurement, Materials and Safety, and Job Planning, Benchwork, and Layout .

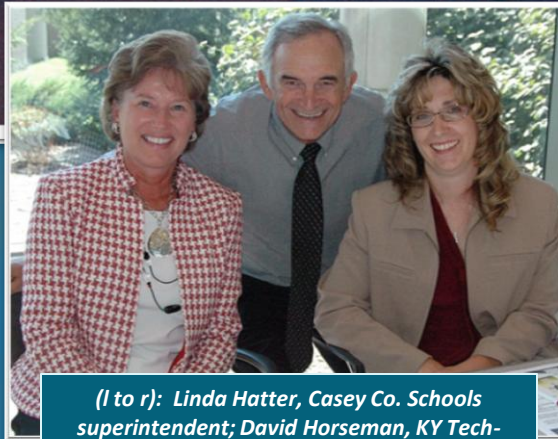
He plans to earn an associate degree in applied science and continue working in the machining industry.

Pulaski County Regional Promotional Meeting

*Somerset Community College
September 30, 2010 - 1:30 P.M.*



(l to r): Shawn Anderson, SCC director of Financial Aid and David Gilliam, SCC program facilitator, enrollment management. Gilliam has made a concentrated effort to work with KY Tech principals for student dual credit opportunities. It's working.



(l to r): Linda Hatter, Casey Co. Schools superintendent; David Horseman, KY Tech-Garrard Co. principal and Carmella Clark, KY Tech-Casey Co. principal.



(l to r): Donna Butler, Clinton Co. HS counselor; Alfreda Stearns, KY Tech-Clinton Co. principal; and Judy Tallent, SCC - Clinton Center assistant director. Both Butler and Tallent serve on the KY Tech-Clinton Co. steering committee.

Pulaski County Regional Promotional Meeting

Linda Bourne

Somerset CC Associate Dean for Extended Programs:

"It is our privilege at Somerset Community College to be involved in KY Tech's Close the Deal initiative. We look forward to continuing as a significant postsecondary partner through dual credit and articulation agreements. We are committed to increasing our efforts to advise secondary students and parents about opportunities to earn postsecondary credit while in high school – credit that will help every student transition to college."

Bourne addressed the group on behalf of Dr. Tony L. Honeycutt, Provost of the Somerset North Campus.

Linda Bourne



KY Tech-Pulaski Co. principal Beth Hargis welcomed everyone to Somerset.

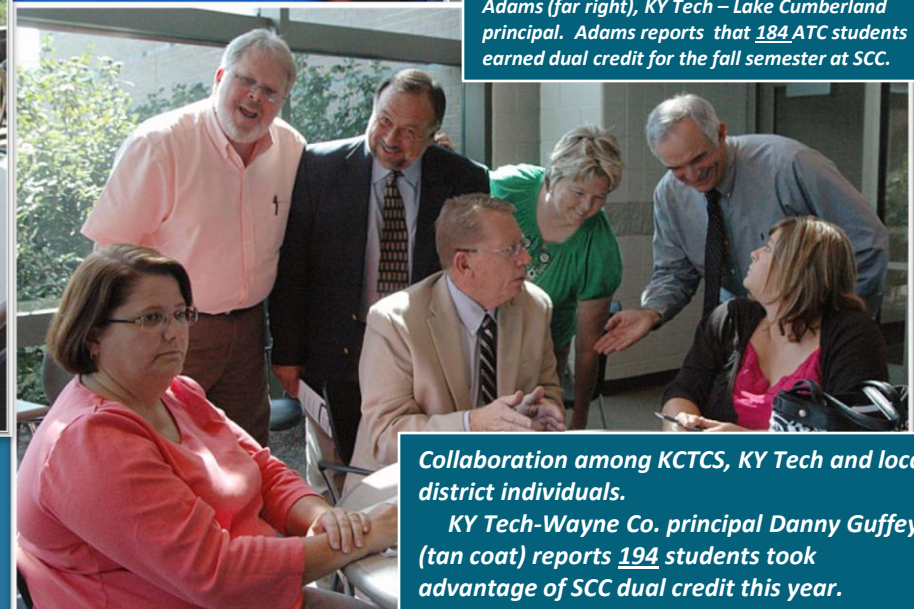


Lake Cumberland (Russell County) delegation. Jeff Adams (far right), KY Tech – Lake Cumberland principal. Adams reports that 184 ATC students earned dual credit for the fall semester at SCC.



(l to r): Ralph Baker, KY Tech-Rockcastle Co. principal; Jenny Sweet, RC Chamber of Commerce secretary/treasurer and adult ed director for RC; Janice Miller, RCHS counselor and Betty Holt, special education liaison RC schools.

According to Baker, "A total of 150 students received SCC dual credit during the fall semester. This represents 100 percent of the juniors and seniors who attend the Rockcastle ATC."



Collaboration among KCTCS, KY Tech and local district individuals.

KY Tech-Wayne Co. principal Danny Guffey (tan coat) reports 194 students took advantage of SCC dual credit this year.

Pulaski County Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Success– Wesley Pingleton

Wesley Pingleton is a former KY Tech–Garrard Co. welding student. He is currently doing his student teaching at the ATC under welding instructor Tim Pinson. He credits his interest in career and technical education to his ATC and says it gave him a solid foundation in a career that he will “absolutely love and enjoy.” He believes the choices he made in high school led him to where he is today.

Pingleton:

“The nice thing about my Kentucky Tech welding program was I earned 11 dual credit hours that I used in college. It saved me time and money.

“I’m a firm believer and an example that Kentucky Tech ATCs really do work. After I left the ATC, I enrolled in machine tool technology at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC). I received my associate degree in Applied Science from BCTC and then transferred my credits to Eastern Kentucky University and enrolled in the career and technical education program. I will graduate from ECU in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Education.

“I’ve been able to transfer credits since high school. And, with the agreement between KCTCS and ECU, I not only transferred my credits, but was also eligible to pay the same tuition that I paid at KCTCS. Again, I not only saved time, but I also saved a lot of money so I guess I’ll start working on my master’s degree. I believe in this system because of what it has done for me. I’m in something that I absolutely love now.”



Wesley Pingleton tells his story as KY Tech-Garrard County ATC principal David Horseman listens.

Pulaski County Regional Promotional Meeting

Student Success– Steven Cummins



Above (l to r): OCTE executive director John Marks, Senator Vernie McGaha, Candy Cummins (mother of Steven Cummins), Pingleton and Horseman. Not pictured: Steven Cummins.

Steven Cummins is a former KY Tech-Garrard Co. ATC welding student. His goal is to become a master welder and he is well on his way to achieving that goal. Because he is currently enrolled at the Tulsa Welding School, he asked his mother Candy to speak for him at the Pulaski County Close the Deal meeting. He felt it was important for people to know how much his welding program contributed to what he believes will be a great career and how it helped him go on to a postsecondary institution.

Candy Cummins:

"My son said to me, please do this for Kentucky Tech. So, I took off from work to tell his story.

"Steven does not know where he would be if he had not enrolled in his welding program. After one-half a semester in the program, he came home and said, 'I know what I want to do. I'm going to be a master welder.'

"During high school Steven won a scholarship to Ohio Technical College, but wanted to go to the Tulsa Welding School. To graduate, he has to complete a 10 phase course. Prior to being accepted, Steven tested out of two phases. He was successful because of what he had learned in his ATC welding program. These two phases saved me almost \$5,000. In fact, once he got into the third phase, he said he should have tried to test out of that too because he had already learned the material at Kentucky Tech.

"My son is happy and has been the top Tulsa welder four times and is currently in phase six of his education. Kentucky Tech gave him his chance."

Pulaski County Regional Promotional Meeting

Senator Vernie McGaha (R)

Senate District 15 (Adair, Casey, Pulaski, Russell):

“Career and technical education in Kentucky is one of the key secrets that must be brought into the forefront of education. Barriers must be knocked down in order to elevate the value of both Kentucky Tech and locally operated career and technical programs. Kentucky Tech gets it in terms of college and career readiness and what it means for economic development opportunities in our state. I think this is one of the most critical elements we must acknowledge and promote.

“The Close the Deal initiative is an outstanding effort to help students and their parents understand the opportunities and advantages for secondary students to earn postsecondary credit and successfully transition into college.

“I want to thank OCTE executive director John Marks for his dedication to career and technical education, and to applaud the good work of KY Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton in creating this type of opportunity for career and technical education students in Kentucky.”



*Senator McGaha addresses audience during
Pulaski County Close the Deal meeting.*

Shelby County Regional Promotional Meeting

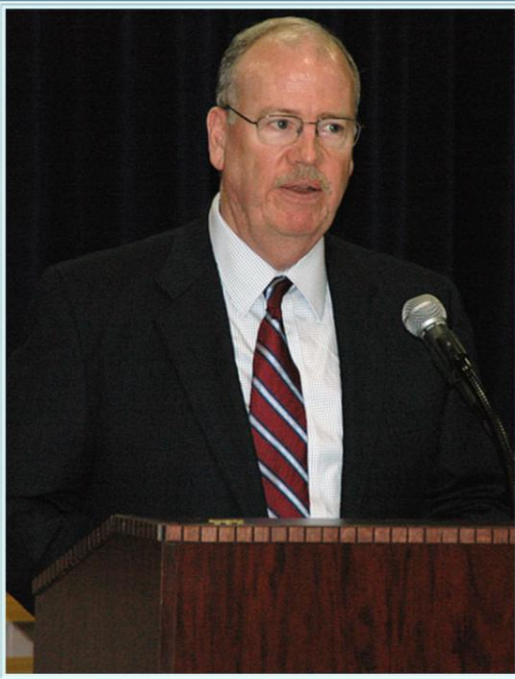
Shelby County High School

September 27, 2010- 1:30 P.M.



(l to r): Lisa Brosky, Director, Marketing and Communications, JCTC; Dr. Tony Newberry, President, JCTC; John Marks, OCTE Executive Director; KY Tech Area Supervisor Mary Stratton; Allen D. Rose, Susan Carlisle, JCTC Carrollton Campus Director; and Dr. John Wieland, JCTC-Shelby Campus Director.

Shelby County Regional Promotional Meeting



Tony Newberry, Ph.D.

Jefferson Community and Technical College President:

"Higher education is more important now than ever. Jobs of the 21st century require a level of technological expertise, communication and critical thinking not seen before. Preparing for college early in high school and getting a head start on college through dual credit programs is vital to a student's future academic and career success. Students can continue that education seamlessly by attending community and technical college and transferring into four-year programs."



Carlisle:

"Two years ago JCTC- Carrollton Campus hosted an open house. We initiated the Close the Deal concept by showing KY Tech students the educational opportunities that can begin by taking dual credit classes at the area technology center. Since that time, KY Tech - Carroll County ATC students have taken classes that can and will continue to jump-start their post secondary education. Once they see what can transfer, and how much time and money they save, the connection is made. Both students and their parents realize the value and opportunity. Then they are willing to take the next step – enrolling for a degree."

"As a result of working together with our KY Tech partners, over 80 students have received official JCTC certificates. We are making a difference."



Above (l to r): Crystal Raisor, KY Tech-Carroll Co. ATC principal; Heather Yocum, JCTC-Carrollton Campus student affairs specialist; and Susan Carlisle, JCTC Carrollton Campus director.

Student Success – Bruce Edwards

Bruce Edwards

KY Tech-Shelby Co. ATC automotive Technology Instructor:

Growing up, Bruce Edwards always had a passion for cars and wanted to become an automotive technician. His dream became a reality.

He graduated from Eminence HS in 1977, but was able to take automotive technology classes at what was formerly called the Shelby Co. Area Vocational Education Center – now Area Technology Center. Growing up in a house where education was extremely important, he went to WKU to satisfy his parents (his father, James D. Edwards was superintendent of Eminence Independent Schools and had also been a principal at Carroll Co. High School). However, after two years, he left to pursue his dream which was “to be an auto mechanic.”

“I worked at Sears Automotive Center in Bowling Green while I was going to college but left to come back home to Eminence. So, I went to work at Davis Motor Sales in Shelbyville as an auto mechanic and was lucky to get in on the cutting edge of some of the modern technology that we see today. In 1986, I had an opportunity to teach automotive technology at the Jefferson State Vocational Technical School and Manpower Skills Center (now JCTC-Jefferson Campus). It was great! So, I re-entered college at the University of Louisville and later graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational education.”

Over his career, Edwards earned every possible Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification including automotive, heavy trucks, school bus maintenance, automotive machining, alternate fuels, and advanced level electronic diagnosis. Since 1997, his name has been perpetually displayed at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn, Michigan. He has been an ASE certified master automotive technician since 1983.

Edwards began teaching at the Shelby Co. ATC in 2004 and is still an adjunct automotive technology professor at JCTC-Jefferson Campus. Edwards is proud of many accomplishments including his team of students who won the 2009 Ford AAA Kentucky State Championship. He and his students went to national competition where they won 11th place in the nation - with a perfect car. There were 15 perfect cars completed in that competition - time was used as the tie-breaker.

“I couldn’t have been more proud of my students. They represented Kentucky well.”



Student Success - Corey Martin



Corey Martin

KY Tech Carroll County ATC Automotive Technology Instructor:

Martin was a former automotive technology student under Bruce Edwards and graduated with 5 dual credit hours. While a senior in high school, Martin was a co-op student with Pearce Ford-Lincoln-Mercury in Shelbyville. He worked after school and on weekends – the equivalent of a full time job. The dealership needed an automotive transmission tech and Corey was being groomed for the position. So, he decided to enroll in the automotive technology program and began taking classes at JCTC-Jefferson Campus. The dual credit hours he earned in high school transferred to JCTC.

The dealership experienced some difficulty and Corey left to work at Bailey's Service Center in Shelbyville. During that time, he became an ASE certified master automotive technician.

It was during a Ford AAA state competition in high school that he realized he wanted to become a teacher. Mr. Edwards was at the competition and "I saw the proud look on his face when we came in 3rd place. I decided I wanted to provide that same experience to students. It had an effect on me."

In December 2009, Edwards contacted him about an automotive technology position that had opened up at the KY Tech-Carroll Co. ATC. Martin had finished his 5 years of practical experience and was eligible to apply. In January 2010, Corey started teaching automotive technology. He is currently enrolled in the Career and Technical Education program at ECU working on the 64-hour program. He began his KTIP in August 2010.

"Without the guidance that I got from Bruce Edwards, I would not be where I am today," said Martin.

Shelby County Guests



James Neihof, Shelby County Schools Superintendent and Roger Marcum, Executive Vice President, St. Catharine College.

Photo at right (l to r): Faye Campbell, KY Tech-Meade Co. Principal, Crystal Raisor, KY Tech-Carroll Co. Principal, Mary Stratton, KY Tech Area Supervisor; Brady Southwood, KY Tech-Bullitt Co. Principal; John Sanders, KY Tech-Nelson Co. Principal; and Laura Arnold, KY Tech-Marion Co. Principal.



Above, back row, (l to r): OCTE Executive Director John Marks, Donald W. Smith, Marion County Schools Superintendent; John G. Mattingly, Marion County Judge Executive; and Chris Brady, Marion County High School Principal. Front row (l to r): Laura Arnold, KY Tech-Marion Co. ATC Principal and Carolyn Keith, Owen County Judge Executive.

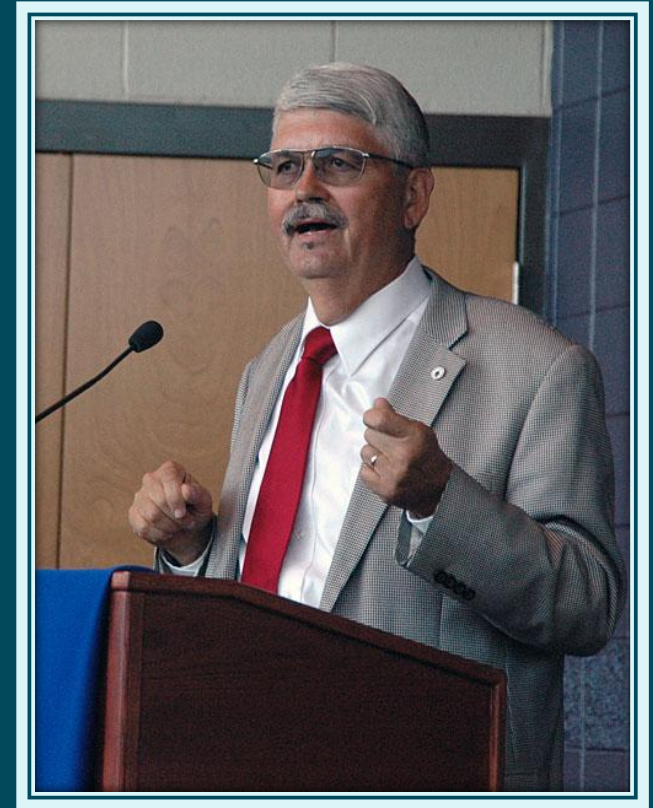


John Marks
Executive Director
Office of Career and Technical Education
Department for Workforce Investment
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

“Close the Deal is a great example of what can happen when education partners focus on college and career readiness for student success. We have all worked hard to keep our statewide articulation and dual credit agreements up to date and viable. But, without local understanding, commitment and marketing, these agreements could not grow to their fullest potential.

“The fact is this –every student that we serve throughout the Kentucky Tech school district can and should use this tremendous benefit. Our job as administrators is to help make these connections beneficial for all partners.

“I want to personally congratulate Mary Stratton for her Close the Deal vision and our other Kentucky Tech area supervisors Linda Floyd and Barney Judd for their dedication in coordinating meetings in their service areas. We also want to thank KCTCS and our other postsecondary partners including Western Kentucky University for their valuable contributions. The whole plan is a wonderful model of local cooperation – a model that supports closing the deal between a student and his or her postsecondary education experience.”



KY Tech Good News Story #331 – October 7, 2010

By: Fran Dundon

Office of Career and Technical Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

